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Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 78- 2478

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Relations w/ media*

Mr. Loch Johnson
Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Loch:

In reference to your request concerning Agency association with or involvement with PBS in general and WETA in particular:

(a) With regard to WETA -- a thorough search of Agency records has not revealed that there has been any contact with WETA.

(b) With regard to PBS -- Agency records only indicate two contacts with PBS, both at PBS's initiative. In the first instance, PBS requested the Agency's permission to film the program's narrator for the program "In Search of the Real America," at CIA Headquarters and other CIA sites. There was a certain amount of contact with PBS in working out the arrangements to accommodate this request. The second contact with PBS was generated by PBS again in relation to the program "In Search of the Real America," in support of PBS's desire to possibly do a series on the history of intelligence. In this connection, contact has been limited to showing them a computer run of the titles of unclassified films and videotapes dealing with intelligence as well as another computer run dealing with specifically the historical aspect of intelligence. There has been no other contact with PBS.

Sincerely,




Assistant Legislative Counsel

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [] Office of Legislative Counsel
FROM: Office of Public Affairs
SUBJECT: Agency Contacts with PBS

I. "In Search of the Real America"

A. John Wilhelm, associate producer for the PBS television show "In Search of the Real America," sent a letter to Admiral Turner on 25 January 1978 explaining the intent of the show and asking permission to film the program's narrator at CIA headquarters and other CIA sites.

B. After reviewing a preliminary script for the program, it was decided to allow PBS to film at headquarters.

C. A good deal of communication, both written and oral and involving unclassified reference data and logistics arrangements before the filming, flowed between the Public Affairs Office--the Agency's pegpoint for coordination--and PBS.

D. An eight-person crew from PBS spent Saturday, 15 April filming at headquarters--the Ruffing Computer Center, the Library, and the main entrance.

The crew returned on 6 May to re-do some of the exterior shots.

Footage shot at the Agency was subject to Agency review for security breaches. The CIA exercised no control over content.

E. The "In Search of the Real America" show on CIA, including footage shot at headquarters, aired on Channel 26 WETA on 19 June. Public Affairs requested and received, a cassette of the program.

II. Proposed PBS Series on Intelligence

A. On 10 May, Austin Hoyt, producer at PBS and the executive producer of "In Search of the Real America" visited the Public Affairs Office to discuss with Mr. Hetu and [] his idea of doing a series on the history of intelligence.

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B. Mr. Hetu showed Hoyt a computer run of the titles of unclassified films and videotapes dealing with intelligence on file in OCR. Hoyt selected ten titles of interest to him.

C. As a result of this meeting, Public Affairs asked OCR to do another computer run, this time looking for films dealing specifically with the historical aspect of intelligence. Hoyt selected seven additional films.

D. Hoyt expressed interest in viewing some of these films; he may or may not come back to headquarters to see them.

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